

## Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2284

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON HISHAM NAZIR

REF: STATE 194686, BIOGRAPHIC DATA FORM DATED MARCH 12, 1968

1. BIO DATA FORM IS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE TODAY. HISHAM NAZIR IS STILL PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION. HE HAS, IN THE INTERIM, FREQUENTLY BEEN A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT ABROAD. RECENTLY HE WAS IN THE U.K. TOUTING SAUDI DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

2. NAZIR CONTINUES TO BE IN THE ANTI-YAMANI FACTION AND IS FREQUENTLY SUGGESTED AS A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT IF THE LATTER FALLS FROM GRACE (A FREQUENT RUMOR). THE DRAFTING OFFICER BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE ABRASIVE NATURE OF NAZIR IS UNDERPLAYED IN THE 1968 FORM. FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS REPORTED IN 1968 BY THE CURRENT NUMBER TWO IN THE CPO AS OVER AMBITIOUS, AND AS DRIVING HIS STAFF FAR TOO HARD. CERTAINLY NAZIR HAS, SINCE THAT TIME, DEVELOPED THE BEST SAG STAFF OURSIDE OF PETROMIN. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS FAR TOO EASY TO EXAGGERATE NAZIR'S ABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS. HIS DEGREE IS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TENDS TO BE SUPERFICIAL AND GENERAL. HE RECENTLY ANSWERED A QUESTION CONCERNING MANPOWER, THAT SAUDI ARABIA COULD IMPORT 200,000 UNEMPLOYED ARABS FROM ALGERIA AND MOROCCO TO MEET ITS LABOR NEEDS. HE HAS ALSO REMARKED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS

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THAT SAUDI ARABIA NEEDS PRODUCE NO MORE THAN 2,000,000

BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY (CAPACITY APPROACHING 11 MILLION) TO MEET THE COUNTRIES BASIC NEEDS. THIS STATEMENT DESPITE THE FACT THAT PETROMIN'S PLANS FOR PETROCHEMICAL AND OTHER LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES CALL FOR USING A VOLUME OF NATURAL GAS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PRODUCTION OF A MINIMUM OF 8 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY AND MORE LIKELY 12 MILLION.

3. NAZIR DOES HAVE A REPUTATION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE KINGDOM AS A STRAIGHT TALKER WHO LAYS IT ON THE LINE. HE IS NOT AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE FOR A HIGHER POSITION IF A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SHUFFLE SHOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER RAMADAN (OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER). HE IS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO PRINCE FAHD AND TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HASAN MISHARI.

4. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT NAZIR IS CURRENTLY MANEUVERING FOR MORE POWER, NOR HAS HIS INFLUENCE DIMINISHED UNDER THE CURRENT REGIME. THE VEHICLE FOR NAZIR'S ADVANCEMENT SEEMS TO BE A SERIES OF ROYAL COMMISSIONS WHICH WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO FOLLOW UP ON THE 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. EMBASSY DOES NOT YET KNOW HOW COMMISSIONS WILL BE BROKEN DOWN, OR WHO WILL HAVE AUTHORITY, OR HOW MUCH AUTHORITY WILL ACTUALLY ACCRUE. IT WILL BE MOST INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO PETROMIN DEVELOPMENT PLANS, IF THE COMMISSIONS DO DEVELOP. NAZIR HAS ALSO REMARKED THAT HE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO GET INTO UN AFFAIRS.

5. NAZIR LIKES TO STYLE HIMSELF A WESTERN STYLE EXECUTIVE, DELEGATING AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY, ETC. HE PRIDES HIMSELF ON HIS WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK CANDIDLY.

6. AS A FINAL TIDBIT, NAZIR REPORTEDLY DIVORCED HIS WIFE AROUND 1967 AND THEN REMARRIED HER.  
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